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Chile prepares for attack

Battle brews at OAS meeting

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BATTLE lines of a sort are already drawn for the Organization of American States Assembly, which began a ten-day session here yesterday. Chile has told the United States it "cannot ignore" Washington's (alleged) scheming in 1970 to prevent the election of Dr. Salvador Allende to its presidency, as tenuously revealed in the Anderson-ITT scandal.



The U.S. delegation to the OAS Assembly is prepared to assume a "statesman-like, dignified attitude," but if attacked hard will "reply in kind."

The Nixon Administration, from the highest level, has signaled to Dr. Allende what weapons it has. But it is also clear the White House wants to avoid a knock-down-and-drag-out fight at the OAS with Chile. Our side has had good success getting complaining Latinos

down to work in committees and may again at the Assembly, where such meetings are closed.

Our Secretary of State, William Rogers, obviously does not want to become involved. After entertaining the visiting delegation heads at a luncheon today he will leave for a visit to Canada tomorrow.

LOUD, CLEAR SIGNALS

The signals launched by the Nixon team to Chile on the Assembly eve have been loud and clear. They tell Santiago that Washington has detailed proof that President Allende is harboring a Cuban embassy now trying to upset governments in both Bolivia and Uruguay.

On Friday, April 7, the New York Times' roving columnist on foreign affairs published leaked information aimed at both Castro and Allende. It revealed that Bolivian exiles in Chile now marshaling to "communize Bolivia" are directed by a Cuban mission in Santiago. Dr. Allende is pointedly tied into the affair by the revelation that the Cuban who heads the mission is a Castro intelligence officer named Luis Fernandez Ona, "married to Allende's favorite daughter, Beatrice."

AID TO GUERRILLAS

Earlier, an even more detailed leak of CIA information to Jack Anderson on March 30 had given chapter and verse on the way the Cubans in Castro's Santiago embassy and the Allendista Chileans are working to help guerrillas trying to overturn governments in Bolivia and Uruguay.

Latin American sources had long since revealed this to me and it comes as no surprise to the well-informed. But the timing of the leaks, especially the one to columnist Sulzberger, indicates the White House holds a strong hand and wishes it to be known.

But this same White House, at the moment, is in a bind on the issue, one it will not be free of until after President Nixon visits Moscow in May, if then. The Nixon-Kissinger team wishes to keep its options wide, if possible. Depending on how Moscow is willing to deal, the team might later want to make a 180 degree turn, specifically on Castro's Cuba.

Other complaints against the United States besides Chile's, will be heard at the OAS assembly, echoing those sure to be voiced at this week's Santiago meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). And these complaints may become deeply involved in our domestic, election-year politics. For none other than the longtime Nixon critic, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, Sen. J. William Fulbright, is meeting with the Latinos on April 14.